

Listing of the Claims

It is respectfully requested that the claims be amended without prejudice, without admission, without surrender of subject matter, and without any intention of creating any estoppel as to equivalents, as follows. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently amended) A stabilized peptide formulation, either in a solution or in a suspension, comprising: (a) the peptide PACAP 66 or a salt thereof; (b) a zinc transition metal salt; and (c) a pharmaceutically acceptable organic solvent.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Previously presented) The formulation of claim 1, wherein the peptide PACAP 66 has an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1.
4. (Canceled)
5. (Canceled)
6. (Canceled)
7. (Canceled)
8. (Original) The formulation of claim 1, wherein said organic solvent is selected from the group consisting of DMSO, 1-methyl-2-pyrrolidinone, propanol, propylene glycol, glycerol acetate, monothioglycerol, acetic acid, diethanolamine, benzyl alcohol, ethyl lactate, glycerol formal, N-methylpyrrolidone, polyethyleneglycol 400, and isopropyl myristate.
9. (Withdrawn) The formulation of claim 1, wherein said organic solvent is a mixture of two or more organic solvents selected from the group consisting of DMSO, 1-methyl-2-pyrrolidinone, propanol, propylene glycol, glycerol acetate, monothioglycerol, acetic

acid, diethanolamine, benzyl alcohol, ethyl lactate, glycerol formal, N-methylpyrrolidone, polyethyleneglycol 400, and isopropyl myristate.

10. (Original) The formulation of claim 8, wherein said organic solvent is DMSO, 1-methyl-2-pyrrolidinone, or propanol.
11. (Original) A stabilized peptide formulation, either in a solution or in a suspension, comprising: (a) PACAP 66 (SEQ ID NO: 1) and/or salts thereof; (b) ZnCl_2 ; and (c) a pharmaceutically acceptable organic solvent.
12. (Original) The stabilized peptide formulation of claim 11, wherein said organic solvent is selected from the group consisting of DMSO, 1-methyl-2-pyrrolidinone, propanol, propylene glycol, glycerol acetate, monothioglycerol, acetic acid, diethanolamine, benzyl alcohol, ethyl lactate, glycerol formal, N-methylpyrrolidone, polyethyleneglycol 400, and isopropyl myristate.
13. (Original) The stabilized peptide formulation of claim 12, wherein said organic solvent is DMSO, 1-methyl-2-pyrrolidinone or propanol.
14. (Withdrawn) The formulation of claim 11, wherein said organic solvent is a mixture of two or more organic solvents selected from the group consisting of DMSO, 1-methyl-2-pyrrolidinone, propanol, propylene glycol, glycerol acetate, monothioglycerol, acetic acid, diethanolamine, benzyl alcohol, ethyl lactate, glycerol formal, N-methylpyrrolidone, polyethyleneglycol 400, and isopropyl myristate.
15. (Original) The formulation of claim 11, wherein said ZnCl_2 is at a ZnCl_2 :peptide molar ratio of above 0.1 in said organic solvent.
16. (Original) The formulation of claim 11, wherein said PACAP 66 and/or salts thereof are at a concentration of above 0.1 mg/mL of said organic solvent.
17. (Currently amended) A stabilized peptide formulation, comprising a dried mixture of an acid, ~~and~~ the peptide PACAP 66 or a salt thereof, and a zinc salt.

18. (Previously presented) The formulation of claim 17, wherein the peptide PACAP 66 has an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1.
19. (Original) The formulation of claim 17, wherein said acid is an inorganic acid.
20. (Original) The formulation of claim 19, wherein said inorganic acid is selected from HCl and H₃PO₄.
21. (Withdrawn) The formulation of claim 17, wherein said acid is TFA.
22. (Original) The formulation of claim 17, wherein said formulation is freeze-dried or spray-dried.
23. (Canceled)
24. (Canceled)
25. (Canceled)
26. (Currently amended) A stabilized peptide formulation, comprising a dried mixture of an inorganic acid, ~~and~~ PACAP 66 (SEQ ID NO: 1) and/or a salt thereof, and a zinc salt.
27. (Withdrawn) The formulation of claim 26, wherein said acid is TFA.
28. (Canceled)
29. (Previously presented) The formulation of claim 26, wherein said inorganic acid is selected from HCl and H₃PO₄.
30. (Original) The formulation of claim 26, wherein a molar ratio of said acid to said PACAP 66 and/or a salt thereof is above 0.1.
31. (Cancelled)
32. (Cancelled)

33. (Cancelled)
34. (Currently amended) A stabilized peptide formulation, comprising a dried mixture of a ~~transition-metal~~ zinc salt and the peptide PACAP 66 or a salt thereof.
35. (Original) The formulation of claim 34, further comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable organic solvent.
36. (Original) The formulation of claim 35, wherein said organic solvent is selected from the group consisting of DMSO, 1-methyl-2-pyrrolidinone, propanol, propylene glycol, glycerol acetate, monothioglycerol, acetic acid, diethanolamine, benzyl alcohol, ethyl lactate, glycerol formal, N-methylpyrrolidone, polyethyleneglycol 400, and isopropyl myristate.
37. (Original) The formulation of claim 36, wherein said organic solvent is DMSO, 1-methyl-2-pyrrolidinone or propanol.
38. (Withdrawn) The formulation of claim 35, wherein said organic solvent is a mixture of two or more organic solvents selected from the group consisting of DMSO, 1-methyl-2-pyrrolidinone, propanol, propylene glycol, glycerol acetate, monothioglycerol, acetic acid, diethanolamine, benzyl alcohol, ethyl lactate, glycerol formal, N-methylpyrrolidone, polyethyleneglycol 400, and isopropyl myristate.
39. (Canceled)
40. (Previously presented) The formulation of claim 34, wherein the peptide PACAP 66 has an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1.
41. (Canceled)
42. (Canceled)
43. (Canceled)
44. (Previously presented) A process for preparing a stabilized peptide formulation, comprising the steps of: (a) preparing an acid solution of acid and water; (b) cooling said

acid solution to below room temperature; (c) mixing said cooled acid solution and the peptide PACAP 66 or a salt thereof to create a cooled mixture; and (d) drying said cooled mixture.

45. (Original) The process of claim 44, wherein said acid is an inorganic acid.
46. (Original) The process of claim 45, wherein said inorganic acid is selected from HCl and H₃PO₄.
47. (Withdrawn) The process of claim 44, wherein said acid is TFA.
48. (Previously presented) The process of claim 44, wherein the peptide is PACAP 66 has an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1.
49. (Original) The process of claim 48, wherein a molar ratio of said acid to said PACAP 66 and/or a salt thereof is above 0.1.
50. (Original) The process of claim 44, wherein said drying step is freeze-drying or spray-drying.
51. (Currently amended) The process of claim 44, further comprising adding a ~~transition metal~~ zinc salt to said cooled mixture before drying said cooled mixture.
52. (Cancelled)
53. (Cancelled)
54. (Withdrawn) A process for preparing a stabilized peptide formulation, comprising the steps of: (a) mixing an aqueous solution containing a transition metal salt with a peptide containing at least one histidine residue; and (b) drying said mixture.
55. (Withdrawn) The process of claim 54, wherein said peptide is selected from the group consisting of the peptide hormone superfamily containing PACAP, PACAP-like peptides, VIP, glucagon, glucagon-like peptides, GRF, secretin, helodermin, exendin-4, and functionally equivalent variants thereof.

56. (Withdrawn) The process of claim 54, wherein said peptide is PACAP 66 (SEQ ID NO: 1).
57. (Withdrawn) The process of claim 54, wherein said peptide is selected from the group consisting of adrenocorticotrophic hormone, angiotensins, renin substrate tetradecapeptide, natriuretic peptides, gastrointestinal peptides, luteinizing hormone releasing hormone, melanocyte stimulating hormone, and neurotensin, and parathyroid hormone.
58. (Withdrawn) The process of claim 54, wherein said transition metal salt is a salt of a transition metal selected from the group consisting of zinc, copper, iron, manganese, nickel and cobalt.
59. (Withdrawn) The process of claim 58, wherein said transition metal salt is a zinc salt.
60. (Withdrawn) The process of claim 54, further comprising the step of adding a pharmaceutically acceptable organic solvent to said dried mixture.
61. (Withdrawn) The process of claim 60, wherein said organic solvent is selected from the group consisting of DMSO, 1-methyl-2-pyrrolidinone, propanol, propylene glycol, glycerol acetate, monothioglycerol, acetic acid, diethanolamine, benzyl alcohol, ethyl lactate, glycerol formal, N-methylpyrrolidone, polyethyleneglycol 400, and isopropyl myristate.
62. (Withdrawn) The process of claim 60, wherein said organic solvent is a mixture of two or more organic solvents selected from the group consisting of DMSO, 1-methyl-2-pyrrolidinone, propanol, propylene glycol, glycerol acetate, monothioglycerol, acetic acid, diethanolamine, benzyl alcohol, ethyl lactate, glycerol formal, N-methylpyrrolidone, polyethyleneglycol 400, and isopropyl myristate.
63. (Withdrawn) The process of claim 61, wherein said organic solvent is DMSO, 1-methyl-2-pyrrolidinone, or propanol.
64. (Withdrawn) The process of claim 54, wherein said histidine residue is a terminal histidine residue.

65. (Withdrawn) The process of claim 54, wherein said drying step is freeze-drying or spray-drying.
66. (New) A stabilized peptide formulation, either in a solution or in a suspension, consisting essentially of: (a) the peptide PACAP 66 or a salt thereof; (b) a transition metal salt; and (c) a pharmaceutically acceptable organic solvent.
67. (New) The stabilized peptide formulation of claim 66, wherein said transition metal salt is zinc.